

ARKANSAS BROILER HATCHERY



ARKANSAS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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ARKANSAS CHICK PLACEMENTS DOWN SLIGHTLY FROM LAST YEAR

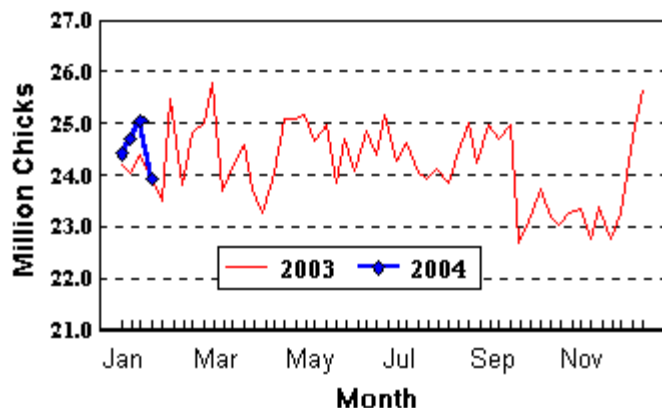
Broiler-type chicks placed for meat production in Arkansas was 23.9 million during the week ending January 24, 2004. Placements were down slightly from the comparable week in 2003, and down 4 percent from the previous week, and included 2.3 million chicks shipped in from other states. Cumulative placements from December 27, 2003 through January 24, 2004 were 98.2 million, up 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

The broiler-type chicks hatched for the week was 25.5 million, down 1 percent from both the corresponding week a year earlier, and also from the previous week. Of the total hatch, 3.5 million chicks were shipped out of the state. Average hatchability for chicks hatched was 82.5 percent.

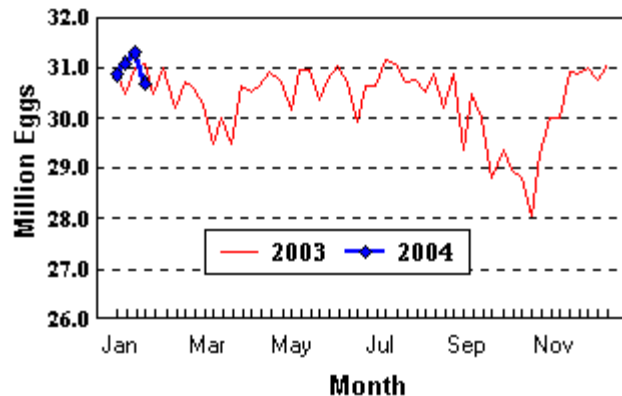
Arkansas hatcheries set 30.7 million broiler-type eggs during the week ending January 24, 2004, down 1 percent from the same period last year, and down 2 percent from the previous week.

| Week Ending | NET PLACEMENTS | | | CHICKS HATCHED | | | EGGS SET | | |
|-------------|----------------|-----------|----------|----------------|-----------|----------|--------------|-----------|----------|
| | 2002-2003 | 2003-2004 | % Change | 2002-2003 | 2003-2004 | % Change | 2002-2003 | 2003-2004 | % Change |
| | <i>1,000</i> | | | <i>1,000</i> | | | <i>1,000</i> | | |
| Dec. 20 | 23,254 | 24,764 | 106 | 24,244 | 25,552 | 105 | 30,054 | 30,777 | 102 |
| Dec. 27 | 23,721 | 25,698 | 108 | 24,193 | 25,519 | 105 | 29,870 | 31,091 | 104 |
| Jan. 3 | 24,244 | 24,457 | 101 | 24,836 | 25,455 | 102 | 30,873 | 30,893 | 100 |
| Jan. 10 | 24,081 | 24,747 | 103 | 24,771 | 25,312 | 102 | 30,485 | 31,084 | 102 |
| Jan. 17 | 24,397 | 25,061 | 103 | 24,693 | 25,677 | 104 | 31,023 | 31,324 | 101 |
| Jan. 24 | 23,950 | 23,939 | 100 | 25,618 | 25,483 | 99 | 31,087 | 30,709 | 99 |

CHICKS PLACED IN ARKANSAS, 2003-2004



EGGS SET, 2003 - 2004



BROILER EGGS SET AND CHICKS PLACED IN 19 MAJOR STATES BY WEEKS, 2003-2004

| STATE | EGGS SET (in Thousands) | | | | | CHICKS PLACED (in Thousands) | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|------------------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|
| | Week Ending | | | | 1/ % | Week Ending | | | | | | 1/ % |
| | 03-Jan | 10-Jan | 17-Jan | 24-Jan | | 20-Dec | 27-Dec | 03-Jan | 10-Jan | 17-Jan | 24-Jan | |
| Alabama | 29,693 | 29,586 | 29,543 | 29,462 | 107 | 21,230 | 21,883 | 21,775 | 21,719 | 21,967 | 22,008 | 102 |
| ARKANSAS | 30,893 | 31,084 | 31,324 | 30,709 | 99 | 24,764 | 25,698 | 24,457 | 24,747 | 25,061 | 23,939 | 100 |
| Delaware | 3,678 | 3,749 | 3,829 | 3,917 | 115 | 4,857 | 4,230 | 4,201 | 4,224 * | 5,447 * | 5,397 | 113 |
| Florida | 1,329 | 1,348 | 1,359 | 1,364 | 86 | 1,827 | 1,703 | 1,736 | 1,609 | 1,637 | 1,561 | 92 |
| Georgia | 33,517 * | 32,686 * | 33,166 * | 32,451 | 103 | 25,971 | 26,178 | 26,469 | 24,976 | 26,153 * | 25,937 | 104 |
| Kentucky | 6,626 | 6,586 | 6,564 * | 5,666 | 89 | 5,845 | 5,899 | 5,885 | 5,742 | 5,574 * | 5,734 | 109 |
| Maryland | 8,858 | 8,842 * | 8,868 * | 8,680 | 88 | 6,101 | 6,495 | 6,470 | 6,186 * | 4,842 * | 4,698 | 72 |
| Mississippi | 19,073 | 19,115 | 19,344 | 18,957 | 99 | 16,328 | 16,463 | 16,528 | 16,012 | 16,632 | 16,314 | 102 |
| N. Carolina | 17,561 * | 18,192 | 17,864 | 18,185 | 100 | 14,608 | 13,481 | 14,162 | 14,017 | 14,115 | 13,810 | 97 |
| Oklahoma | 6,263 | 6,394 | 6,247 | 6,423 | 100 | 4,383 | 3,879 | 5,505 | 4,995 | 4,471 | 4,648 | 108 |
| Pennsylvania | 3,351 | 3,342 | 3,650 | 3,641 | 104 | 2,678 | 2,653 | 2,612 | 2,563 | 2,653 | 2,456 | 98 |
| S. Carolina | 3,659 | 3,690 | 3,702 | 3,683 | 76 | 4,469 | 3,928 | 3,776 | 4,437 | 3,467 | 4,308 | 105 |
| Texas | 14,428 * | 14,695 | 14,800 | 14,787 | 100 | 12,356 | 11,822 | 11,457 | 11,982 | 12,001 | 11,848 | 97 |
| Virginia | 6,220 | 6,273 | 6,230 | 6,266 | 95 | 5,131 | 4,896 | 5,386 | 5,088 | 4,798 | 4,779 | 95 |
| CA,LA,MO,TN,WV | 20,378 | 20,405 | 20,683 | 20,809 | 104 | 19,956 | 19,120 * | 17,979 | 18,425 * | 17,756 * | 17,922 | 94 |
| Total 2003-2004 | 205,527 * | 205,987 * | 207,173 * | 205,000 | | 170,504 | 168,328 * | 168,398 | 166,722 * | 166,574 * | 165,359 | |
| Total 2003 | 204,119 | 203,492 | 202,802 | 204,707 | | 164,898 | 162,414 | 164,413 | 162,132 | 163,604 | 166,045 | |
| %Prev. Year | 101 | 101 | 102 | 100 | | 103 | 104 | 102 | 103 | 102 | 100 | |
| Approximate Marketing Date 2004..... | | | | | | 07-Feb | 14-Feb | 21-Feb | 28-Feb | 06-Mar | 13-Mar | |

* Revised. 1/ Current week as percent of the same week last year.

EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES UP SLIGHTLY

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-state weekly program set 205 million eggs during the week ending January 24, 2003. This was up slightly from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 82 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

BROILER CHICKS PLACED DOWN SLIGHTLY

Broiler growers in the 19-state weekly program placed 165 million chicks for meat production during the week ending January 24, 2003. Placements were down slightly from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 28, 2003 through January 24, 2004 were 667 million, up 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.